

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for causing ~~at least~~ a first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) of ~~at least~~ a first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~) connected to ~~at least~~ a first user station (~~US1~~) for a user of said first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) to migrate towards a second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~), the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) having a first physical electronic address (~~ADP1~~) and ~~at least one~~ a first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) for ~~giving~~ providing access to ~~outside~~ users from the outside[[; said]], the method being characterized in that comprising:

connecting each of the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~) ~~is connected~~ to a message routing center (~~FED~~) including a directory database (~~DIR~~) containing the addresses associated with mailboxes of ~~the~~ the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S3, S2~~); and

recording, during a first step, (~~E1~~) a migration request (~~MR~~) ~~is recorded~~ on a migration control server (~~MCS~~), which request contains, in association, at least the first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) and a scheduled migration instant (~~DM~~) for migration of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~);

~~then~~[[,]] for each migration request (~~MR~~) recorded in the migration control server (~~MCS~~), and in succession,

creating, during a second step, (~~E2~~)[[,]] a second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~) having a second physical electronic address (~~ADP2~~) ~~is created~~ in the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~); and

executing a third step in the second electronic messaging service system when prescribed conditions (~~E3, E20, E21, E22, E23~~) including the arrival (~~E3~~) of the scheduled migration instant (~~DM~~) have been verified as satisfactory ~~being satisfied~~, a third step (~~E4~~) is executed in the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~), during which the first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) is formed as the electronic access address for outside users ~~from the outside for~~ of the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~);

when conditions required on the first and second electronic messaging service mailboxes (~~BOX1, BOX2~~) have been verified (~~E5, E6, E7, E8~~) by the message routing center (~~FED~~) as satisfactory ~~being satisfied~~,

activating a queue, during a fourth step (~~E8~~), in the message routing center (~~FED~~), and for the first electronic messaging service mailbox, (~~BOX1~~) a queue is activated for any incoming messages that are addressed to the first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) so that ~~they~~ the any incoming messages do not arrive in the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~);

and

changing in the directory database, during a fifth step, (~~E9~~), ~~in the directory database (DIR)~~, the first physical electronic address (~~ADP1~~) recorded for the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) is ~~changed~~ into the second physical electronic address (~~ADP2~~) of the second electronic messaging service

mailbox (~~BOX2~~), deactivating the queue is deactivated, and
transferring the messages held up in the queue for the first
electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) are transferred to
the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~).

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to claim 1, characterized
~~in that wherein~~ the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~) has ~~at least one~~ a third
electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX3~~) and is connected to ~~at least one~~ a third user station
(~~US3~~) of said third electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX3~~), and the second electronic
messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~) created during the second step (~~E2~~) further ~~has~~ includes the
first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) as its access address (~~AD1~~) for access from the third user
station (~~US3~~) of the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~), and, during the second
step (~~E2~~), establishing redirection in the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~);
~~redirection is established~~ for redirecting the second electronic messaging service mailbox
(~~BOX2~~) towards the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) so as to redirect any
message arriving at the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~) towards the first
electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~), said redirection being cancelled during the third
step (~~E4~~).

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1,
~~said method being characterized in that wherein~~[[:]]

the directory database (~~DIR~~) records the addresses associated with the first and second
electronic messaging service mailboxes of the electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~)
including their aliases;

during the third step (~~E4~~), the directory database (~~DIR~~) communicates ~~the~~ a contact formed by the addresses and aliases associated with the first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) to the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~), which records the contact ~~[[it]]~~ in a table (~~TC~~) of contacts provided in said second electronic messaging service system, at least one of the addresses ~~and/or~~ and aliases associated in said table (~~TC~~) of contacts with the contact having the first access electronic address (~~AD1~~) are being formed as an additional access electronic address for the outside users ~~from the outside for~~ of the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~), ~~then~~ said contact is being subsequently deleted from the table (~~TC~~).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a plurality of first electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S3~~) are connected to at least one electronic messaging service mailbox user station ~~are provided~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the message routing center (~~FED~~) ~~is suitable for routing the~~ is configured to route messages transmitted from the outside and addressed to ~~[[a]]~~ an electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1, BOX2, BOX3~~) of ~~any~~ one of the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~) to said one of the first and second electronic messaging service systems ~~system~~, and is ~~suitable for routing~~ configured to route messages transmitted from ~~[[a]]~~ an electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1, BOX2, BOX3~~) of ~~any~~ one of the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S2, S1~~) and addressed to ~~[[a]]~~ the electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1, BOX2, BOX3~~) of ~~any~~ the other one of the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S2, S1~~) ~~to~~ said other of the first and second electronic messaging service systems ~~system~~.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein[:]

between the third step (~~E4~~) and the fourth step (~~E8~~), the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~) communicate (~~E6~~) to the message routing center (~~FED~~) an address up synchronization request, containing the addresses associated with their electronic messaging service mailboxes (~~BOX1, BOX2~~);

the second messaging service system (~~S2~~) communicates (~~E7~~) to the message routing center (~~FED~~) a list of ~~the~~ access addresses (~~AD1~~) of the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~); and

wherein the conditions required during the fourth step (~~E8~~) comprise verification by the message routing center (~~FED~~) that ~~the~~ a received address up synchronization request received contains the access addresses of the list received from the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~) for the first and second electronic messaging service mailboxes (~~BOX1, BOX2~~).

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the prescribed conditions (~~E3, E20, E21, E22, E23~~) for executing the third step (~~E4~~) comprise verifications (~~E20, E21, E22, E23~~) performed on the user station (~~US1~~) of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~).

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the verifications performed on the user station of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) are performed for a second time (~~E22~~), after a predetermined ~~certain~~ lapse of time after the ~~first time (E20) that they~~ verifications are first performed, and when said

verifications (~~E20, E22~~) are positive, said user station (~~US1~~) communicates (~~E23~~) to the migration control server (~~MCS~~) information on ~~the~~ a type and ~~the~~ memory size of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~).

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein prior to processing the migration requests, a choice is made between an operating mode with said verifications (~~E20, E21, E22, E23~~) for executing the third step (~~E4~~) and an operating mode without said verifications (~~E20, E21, E22, E23~~) for executing the third step (~~E4~~).

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~) is connected to ~~at least one~~ a data migration server (~~DMS~~) and, after the fifth step (~~E9~~) is executed for the first mailbox (~~BOX1~~), a data transfer step (~~E15, E17~~) is executed, during which the data migration server (~~DMS~~) triggers (~~E15, E17~~) transfer of ~~the~~ data present in the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) of the first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~) to the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~) of the second electronic messaging service system (~~S2~~).

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The migration method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the migration control server (~~MCS~~) records in its database (~~MDB~~) an address migration identifier which identifies ~~identifying~~ address migration performed for the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) for which the fifth step (~~E9~~) has been performed, the data transfer step (~~E15, E17~~) being performed by the data migration server

~~(DMS)~~ for the first electronic messaging service mailboxes ~~(BOX1)~~ associated with ~~an~~ the address migration identifier ~~identifying which identifies the~~ address migration performed in the database ~~(MDB)~~ of the migration control server ~~(MCS)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to claim 10 ~~or claim 11,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, when the fifth step ~~(E9)~~ has not been performed for the first electronic messaging service mailbox ~~(BOX1)~~ and if said first electronic messaging service mailbox has diary data, the data migration server ~~(DMS)~~ triggers transfer ~~(E17)~~ of the diary data of said first electronic messaging service mailbox ~~(BOX1)~~ of the first electronic messaging service system ~~(S1)~~ to the second electronic messaging service mailbox ~~(BOX2)~~ of the second electronic messaging service system ~~(S2)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 10 to 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, after the data transfer step ~~(E15, E17)~~, the data migration server ~~(DMS)~~ interrogates ~~(E18)~~ the migration control server ~~(MCS)~~ to determine whether another electronic messaging service mailbox exists for which the fifth step ~~(E9)~~ has been executed and, in the affirmative, the data migration server ~~(DMS)~~ executes the data transfer step ~~(E15, E17)~~ for the electronic messaging service mailbox that is determined ~~indicated to it~~ by the migration control server ~~(MCS)~~ and for which the fifth step ~~(E9)~~ has been executed.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 10 to 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, prior to processing ~~the~~ migration requests, a choice is made between an operating mode with ~~[[a]]~~ the data transfer step ~~(E15, E17)~~ and an operating mode without ~~[[a]]~~ the data transfer step ~~(E15, E17)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the second messaging service system (S2) is connected to at least one data migration server (DMS) and, after the fifth step (E4) ~~is~~ executed for the first electronic messaging service mailbox (BOX1), a local data transfer step (E30) is executed for transferring local data from the first user station (US1), during which local data transfer step the first user station (US1) of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (BOX1) of the ~~first~~ first electronic messaging service system (S1) triggers transfer of the data present in said first user station (US1) to the second electronic messaging service mailbox (BOX2) of the second electronic messaging service system (S2).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to claim 15, characterized in that wherein, for the first user station (US1) for which the local data transfer step (E30) has been executed, ~~its~~ parameterization of the first user station is changed by default into a prescribed parameterization compatible with the second electronic messaging service system (S2).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to claim 15 ~~or claim 16,~~ characterized in that wherein, prior to processing the migration requests, a choice is made between an operating mode with a local data transfer step (E30) during which local data is transferred from user stations~~[[,]]~~ and an operating mode without ~~[[a]]~~ the data transfer step (E30) from user stations.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, characterized in that wherein, for recording the migration request (~~MR~~) during the first step (~~E1~~), the migration request is entered on an administration station (~~AS~~) connected to the migration control server (~~MCS~~), the entered migration request (~~MR~~) is sent from the administration station (~~AS~~) to the migration control server (~~MCS~~), and the migration request (~~MR~~) is recorded in a database (~~TC~~) of the migration control server (~~MCS~~).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, characterized in that wherein the first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~) includes at least one a fourth electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX4~~) and is connected to ~~at least one~~ a fourth user station (~~US4~~) of said fourth electronic messaging service mailbox, (~~BOX4~~), and, during the fifth step (~~E9~~), in the first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~), a redirection is established for redirecting the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) towards the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~), so as to redirect any message arriving at the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) towards the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The migration method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, characterized in that wherein the first electronic messaging service mailbox, (~~BOX1~~) for which at least the fifth step (~~E9~~) has been executed, is deleted (~~E41~~) from the first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~).

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for implementing ~~the~~ a migration method according to ~~any preceding claim~~, said apparatus comprising: being characterized in that it comprises~~[[:]~~

a message routing center (~~FED~~) ~~serving to be connected~~ which is connectable to the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~) and ~~including~~ includes a directory database (~~DIR~~) containing the addresses associated with the respective first and second electronic messaging service mailboxes of the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2~~), the first electronic messaging service mailbox having a first physical electronic address and a first access electronic address for providing access to outside users;

a migration control server (~~MCS~~) connected to the message routing center, (~~FED~~) and ~~suitable for recording~~ the migration control server being configured to record at least one a migration request (~~MR~~) containing, in association, ~~at least the~~ a first access address (~~AD1~~) of ~~[[a]]~~ the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~) of the first electronic messaging service system (~~S1~~) and a scheduled migration instant (~~DM~~) for migration of the first electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX1~~), the migration control server (~~MCS~~) including means for controlling processing of each recorded migration request (~~MR~~) ~~recorded according to the second to fifth steps;~~ and

a data migration server (~~DMS~~) ~~serving to be connected~~ which is connectable to the first and second electronic messaging service systems (~~S1, S2, S3~~), the migration control server (~~MCS~~) being connected to the data migration server (~~DMS~~), and including control means for controlling said migration control server, which means ~~are suitable for causing it~~ are configured to cause said migration control server to execute a first step for transferring data from the first electronic messaging service mailbox to the second electronic messaging service mailbox (~~BOX2~~) for the migration request processed in ~~the~~ a fifth step;

wherein for each migration request recorded in the migration control server, and in succession,

during a second step, a second electronic messaging service mailbox having a second physical electronic address is created in the second electronic messaging service system; and

when prescribed conditions including arrival of the scheduled migration instant have been verified as satisfactory, a third step is executed in the second electronic messaging service system, during which the first access electronic address of the first electronic messaging service mailbox is formed as the electronic access address for outside users of the second electronic messaging service mailbox; and

wherein when conditions required on the first and second electronic messaging service mailboxes have been verified by the message routing center as satisfactory,

during a fourth step, in the message routing center, and for the first electronic messaging service mailbox, a queue is activated for any incoming messages that are addressed to the first access electronic address so that the incoming messages do not arrive in the first electronic messaging service mailbox; and

during the fifth step, within the directory database, the first physical electronic address recorded for the first electronic messaging service mailbox is changed into the second physical electronic address of the second electronic messaging service mailbox, the queue is deactivated, and the any incoming messages held in the queue for the first electronic messaging service mailbox are transferred to the second electronic messaging service mailbox.